



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 37**

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1216

*Senate, March 5, 2025*

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. MAHER, C. of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 84 of public act 13-3, as amended by section 15 of  
2 public act 13-122, section 191 of public act 13-247, section 73 of public act  
3 14-98, section 1 of public act 15-5, section 1 of public act 16-171, section  
4 1 of public act 17-68, section 490 of public act 17-2 of the June special  
5 session and section 73 of public act 20-1, is amended to read as follows  
6 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

7 (a) The Departments of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
8 Administrative Services and Education shall jointly administer a school  
9 security infrastructure competitive grant program to reimburse (1) a  
10 town, (2) a regional educational service center, (3) the governing  
11 authority for a state charter school, (4) the Department of Education on  
12 behalf of the technical high school system, (5) an incorporated or  
13 endowed high school or academy approved by the State Board of  
14 Education pursuant to section 10-34 of the general statutes, (6) the  
15 supervisory agent for a nonpublic school, and (7) a licensed child care

16 center or private preschool operator that has received threats, provided  
17 no family child care providers may be eligible for reimbursement  
18 pursuant to this section, for certain expenses for schools, centers or  
19 preschools incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for: (A) The  
20 development or improvement of the security infrastructure of schools,  
21 centers or preschools, based on the results of school building or child  
22 care center building security assessments pursuant to subsection (d) of  
23 this section, including, but not limited to, the installation of surveillance  
24 cameras, penetration resistant vestibules, ballistic glass, solid core  
25 doors, double door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, entry  
26 door buzzer systems, scan card systems, panic alarms, hardware  
27 associated with emergency response communications systems and  
28 personal emergency communication devices, real time interoperable  
29 communications and multimedia sharing infrastructure or other  
30 systems; and (B) (i) the training of school personnel in the operation and  
31 maintenance of the security infrastructure of school buildings, or (ii) the  
32 purchase of portable entrance security devices, including, but not  
33 limited to, metal detector wands and screening machines and related  
34 training.

35 (b) (1) On and after April 4, 2013, each local and regional board of  
36 education may, on behalf of its town or its member towns, apply, at such  
37 time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency Services  
38 and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of Emergency  
39 Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain expenses for  
40 schools under the jurisdiction of such board of education incurred on or  
41 after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this  
42 section. Prior to the date that the School Safety Infrastructure Council  
43 makes its initial submission of the school safety infrastructure  
44 standards, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general  
45 statutes, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
46 Protection, in consultation with the Commissioners of Administrative  
47 Services and Education, shall determine which expenses are eligible for  
48 reimbursement under the program. On and after the date that the School  
49 Safety Infrastructure Council submits the school safety infrastructure  
50 standards, the decision to approve or deny an application and the

51 determination of which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under  
52 the program shall be in accordance with the most recent submission of  
53 the school safety infrastructure standards, pursuant to subsection (c) of  
54 section 10-292r of the general statutes.

55 (2) A regional educational service center may apply, at such time and  
56 in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
57 Protection prescribes, to the Department of Emergency Services and  
58 Public Protection for a grant for certain expenses for schools under the  
59 jurisdiction of such regional educational service center incurred on or  
60 after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this  
61 section. The department shall decide whether to approve or deny an  
62 application and which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under  
63 the program. Such decisions shall be in accordance with the school  
64 safety infrastructure standards developed pursuant to subsection (c) of  
65 section 10-292r of the general statutes.

66 (3) The governing authority for a state charter school may apply, at  
67 such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency  
68 Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of  
69 Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain  
70 expenses for schools under the jurisdiction of such governing authority  
71 incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in  
72 subsection (a) of this section. The department shall decide whether to  
73 approve or deny an application and which expenses are eligible for  
74 reimbursement under the program. Such decisions shall be in  
75 accordance with the school safety infrastructure standards developed  
76 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general statutes.

77 (4) The superintendent of the technical high school system may  
78 apply, at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of  
79 Emergency Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department  
80 of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain  
81 expenses for schools in the technical high school system incurred on or  
82 after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this  
83 section. The department shall decide whether to approve or deny an

84 application and which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under  
85 the program. Such decisions shall be in accordance with the school  
86 safety infrastructure standards developed pursuant to subsection (c) of  
87 section 10-292r of the general statutes.

88 (5) An incorporated or endowed high school or academy may apply,  
89 at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency  
90 Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of  
91 Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain  
92 expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described  
93 in subsection (a) of this section. The department shall decide whether to  
94 approve or deny an application and which expenses are eligible for  
95 reimbursement under the program. Such decisions shall be in  
96 accordance with the school safety infrastructure standards developed  
97 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general statutes.

98 (6) (A) The supervisory agent for a nonpublic school or a licensed  
99 child care center or private preschool operator described in subdivision  
100 (7) of subsection (a) of this section may apply, at such time and in such  
101 manner as the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
102 Protection prescribes, to the Department of Emergency Services and  
103 Public Protection for a grant for certain expenses for schools under the  
104 jurisdiction of such supervisory agent or for such licensed child care  
105 centers or private preschools incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the  
106 purposes described in subsection (a) of this section. The department  
107 shall decide whether to approve or deny an application and which  
108 expenses are eligible for reimbursement under the program. Such  
109 decisions shall be in accordance with the school safety infrastructure  
110 standards developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the  
111 general statutes.

112 (B) Ten per cent of the funds available under the program shall be  
113 awarded to the supervisory agents of nonpublic schools and licensed  
114 child care center or private preschool operators described in subdivision  
115 (7) of subsection (a) of this section, in accordance with the provisions of  
116 subdivision (6) of subsection (c) of this section.

117 (c) (1) A town may receive a grant equal to a percentage of its eligible  
118 expenses. The percentage shall be determined as follows: (A) Each town  
119 shall be ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine  
120 according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-  
121 262f of the general statutes, (B) based upon such ranking, a percentage  
122 of not less than twenty or more than eighty shall be assigned to each  
123 town on a continuous scale, and (C) the town ranked first shall be  
124 assigned a percentage of twenty and the town ranked last shall be  
125 assigned a percentage of eighty.

126 (2) A regional educational service center may receive a grant equal to  
127 a percentage of its eligible expenses. The percentage shall be determined  
128 by its ranking. Such ranking shall be determined by (A) multiplying the  
129 population of each member town in the regional educational service  
130 center by such town's ranking, as determined in subsection (a) of section  
131 10-285a of the general statutes; (B) adding together the figures for each  
132 town determined under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; and (C)  
133 dividing the total computed under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision  
134 by the total population of all member towns in the regional educational  
135 service center. The ranking of each regional educational service center  
136 shall be rounded to the next higher whole number and each such center  
137 shall receive the same reimbursement percentage as would a town with  
138 the same rank.

139 (3) The governing authority for a state charter school may receive a  
140 grant equal to a percentage of its eligible expenses that is the same as  
141 the town in which such state charter school is located, as calculated  
142 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

143 (4) The Department of Education, on behalf of the technical high  
144 school system, may receive a grant equal to one hundred per cent of its  
145 eligible expenses.

146 (5) An incorporated or endowed high school or academy may receive  
147 a grant equal to a percentage of its eligible expenses. The percentage  
148 shall be determined by its ranking. Such ranking shall be determined by  
149 (A) multiplying the total population, as defined in section 10-261 of the

150 general statutes, of each town which at the time of application for such  
151 school security infrastructure competitive grant has designated such  
152 school as the high school for such town for a period of not less than five  
153 years from the date of such application, by such town's percentile  
154 ranking, as determined in subsection (a) of section 10-285a of the general  
155 statutes, (B) adding together the figures for each town determined under  
156 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and (C) dividing the total  
157 computed under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision by the total  
158 population of all towns which designate the school as their high school  
159 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision. The ranking determined  
160 pursuant to this subsection shall be rounded to the next higher whole  
161 number. Such incorporated or endowed high school or academy shall  
162 receive the reimbursement percentage of a town with the same rank.

163 (6) The supervisory agent for a nonpublic school or a licensed child  
164 care center or private preschool operator described in subdivision (7) of  
165 subsection (a) of this section may receive a grant equal to fifty per cent  
166 of its eligible expenses, provided any such grant shall not exceed fifty  
167 thousand dollars.

168 (d) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, if there are not  
169 sufficient funds to provide grants to all towns, based on the percentage  
170 determined pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the Commissioner  
171 of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the  
172 Commissioners of Administrative Services and Education, shall give  
173 priority to applicants on behalf of schools with the greatest need for  
174 security infrastructure, as determined by said commissioners based on  
175 school building security assessments of the schools under the  
176 jurisdiction of the town's school district conducted pursuant to this  
177 subdivision. Of the applicants on behalf of such schools with the  
178 greatest need for security infrastructure, said commissioners shall give  
179 first priority to applicants on behalf of schools that have no security  
180 infrastructure at the time of such school building security assessment  
181 and succeeding priority to applicants on behalf of schools located in  
182 priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general  
183 statutes. To be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to this section, an

184 applicant board of education shall (A) demonstrate that it has developed  
185 and periodically practices an emergency plan at the schools under its  
186 jurisdiction and that such plan has been developed in concert with  
187 applicable state or local first-responders, and (B) provide for a uniform  
188 assessment of the schools under its jurisdiction, including any security  
189 infrastructure, using the National Clearinghouse for Educational  
190 Facilities' Safe Schools Facilities Checklist. The assessment shall be  
191 conducted under the supervision of the local law enforcement agency.

192 (2) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2018, and the  
193 fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021, if there are not  
194 sufficient funds to provide grants to all applicants that are towns,  
195 regional educational service centers, governing authorities for state  
196 charter schools, the Department of Education, on behalf of the technical  
197 high school system, and incorporated or endowed high schools or  
198 academies based on the percentage determined pursuant to subsection  
199 (c) of this section, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
200 Protection, in consultation with the Commissioners of Administrative  
201 Services and Education, shall give priority to applicants on behalf of  
202 schools with the greatest need for security infrastructure, as determined  
203 by said commissioners based on school building security assessments of  
204 the schools under the jurisdiction of the applicant conducted pursuant  
205 to this subdivision. Of the applicants on behalf of such schools with the  
206 greatest need for security infrastructure, said commissioners shall give  
207 first priority to applicants on behalf of schools that have no security  
208 infrastructure at the time of such school building security assessment  
209 and succeeding priority to applicants on behalf of schools located in  
210 priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general  
211 statutes. To be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to this section, an  
212 applicant shall (A) demonstrate that it has developed and periodically  
213 practices an emergency plan at the schools under its jurisdiction and  
214 that such plan has been developed in concert with applicable state or  
215 local first-responders, and (B) provide for a uniform assessment of the  
216 schools under its jurisdiction, including any security infrastructure,  
217 using the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities' Safe  
218 Schools Facilities Checklist. The assessment shall be conducted under

219 the supervision of the local law enforcement agency.

220 (3) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2018, and the  
 221 fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021, if there are not  
 222 sufficient funds to provide grants to all applicant supervisory agents for  
 223 nonpublic schools or licensed child care center or private preschool  
 224 operators described in subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of this section,  
 225 based on the percentages described in subsection (c) of this section, the  
 226 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in  
 227 consultation with the Commissioners of Administrative Services and  
 228 Education, shall give priority to applicants on behalf of schools, centers  
 229 or preschools with the greatest need for security infrastructure, as  
 230 determined by said commissioners. Of the applicants on behalf of such  
 231 schools, centers or preschools with the greatest need for security  
 232 infrastructure, said commissioners shall give first priority to applicants  
 233 on behalf of schools, centers or preschools that have no security  
 234 infrastructure at the time of application. To be eligible for  
 235 reimbursement pursuant to this section, an applicant supervisory agent  
 236 for a nonpublic school or licensed child care center or private preschool  
 237 operator described in subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of this section  
 238 shall (A) demonstrate that it has developed and periodically practices  
 239 an emergency plan at the school, center or preschool under its  
 240 jurisdiction and that such plan has been developed in concert with  
 241 applicable state or local first-responders, and (B) provide for a uniform  
 242 assessment of the schools, centers or preschools under its jurisdiction,  
 243 including any security infrastructure, using the National Clearinghouse  
 244 for Educational Facilities' Safe Schools Facilities Checklist. The  
 245 assessment shall be conducted under the supervision of the local law  
 246 enforcement agency.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	PA 13-3, Sec. 84

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*



*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	See Below	See Below	See Below

## **Explanation**

The bill expands eligible uses of funding under the school security grant, which is funded through General Obligation (GO) bond funds. Future General Fund debt service costs may be incurred or incurred sooner due to the program's expansion to the degree that it causes authorized GO bond funds to be expended or to be expended more quickly than they otherwise would have been.

As of March 1, 2025, there is an unallocated bond balance of \$20 million for the school security program. The bill does not change GO bond authorizations.

To the extent school districts pursue and are awarded grants under the program expansion, there would be a potential increase in revenue to such districts.

## **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any bonds issued and future grant awards.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1216*****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows the school security infrastructure competitive grant program to be used for purchasing the hardware associated with emergency response communications systems and personal emergency communication devices for school (or other eligible entity) personnel.

Under existing law, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Department of Administrative Services, and the State Department of Education collectively administer this grant. It can be given to various entities, such as towns (for their public schools), private schools, and certain licensed child care centers.

**BACKGROUND*****School Security Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program***

Under existing law, this program reimburses approved applicants, within certain limits, for (1) developing or improving security infrastructure, based on a required security assessment, and (2) (a) training school personnel in operating and maintaining the new or improved security structure or (b) purchasing portable entrance security devices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 2/25/2025